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EGYPT-ISRAEL: Sadat Recalls Kamil
Egyptian President Sadat's recall yesterday of Foreign Minister Kamil from the political talks in Jerusalem underscores his frustration with the slow pace of peace negotiations and is part of his effort to increase pressure on Israel to alter its approach. Sadat also called an extraordinary session of the People's Assembly for Saturday; in the past he has used this forum to make dramatic announcements.
Sadat vowed in a recent interview to resign if peace talks became deadlocked, but the official statement announcing Kamil's recall gave no hint that this was in the works. The Egyptian President's tactics have left Israeli leaders stunned. The Israeli cabinet held a special session last night and issued a statement sharply criticizing Sadat's move.
Recent pressure tactics through public statements by both sides had provided a shaky start for the political talks. Egyptian unhappiness with Israel's approach has been clear for some time, but it is unlikely that Sadat has given up totally on negotiations. Press reports from Cairo assert that he has agreed to resume talks on Saturday in the separate military committee, which deals essentially with bilateral concerns in the Sinai. Prime Minister Begin announced after last night's cabinet meeting that Israel would "consider" resumption of the military talks.
Egypt's statement yesterday on the recall of Kamil charged Israel with presenting partial solutions and asserted that Egypt will no longer haggle over peripheral aspects of the Arab-Israeli problem. It emphasized that negotiations must center on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and on the Palestinian right of self-determination.
This same frustration with Israel's approach was apparent in recent public statements by Sadat and in the Egyptian media's treatment of negotiations. In an interview with the authoritative Cairo magazine October last weekend, Sadat expressed doubt that the talks in Jerusalem would produce the comprehensive declaration of principles he wants, and he said "that is why we will adopt another stand."
In an interview with the Jerusalem Post, also released last weekend, Sadat appeared to appeal directly to the

Israeli population to focus on the principles involved in his peace initiative rather than engage in haggling over details. He clearly believes that protracted negotiations will worsen his political position at home and in the Arab world.

ment was somber and suggested disillusionment. Sadat seems particularly angry and frustrated with Israeli bargaining over retention of settlements and airfields in the Sinai, which he regards as poor substitutes for the security guarantees he has offered Israel. Israel, said Sadat, must choose between land and peace; it cannot have both.

If Sadat is hoping to jolt the Israeli public and its leaders into rethinking their views, his moves are likely to have the opposite effect, at least initially. Israeli opposition leaders are almost certain to criticize Begin for handling the political talks badly, but many Israelis are likely to regard Sadat's latest surprise as part of a calculated "war of nerves" and as a tactical device to bring world opinion to bear on Israel to make further concessions.

Sadat's implicit threat to break off his peace initiative, therefore, could well lead to a hardening of the Israeli position. Although Israeli leaders may fear that prospects for a settlement with Egypt are slipping away, they are likely to be more immediately concerned about countering Sadat's efforts to portray Israeli "haggling" as jeopardizing hopes for peace.